

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY

MAY 17 1965

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

NEWSLETTER

April 1965

No. 68

RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE FORMED

The Rural Community Development Service has been established in the U. S. Department of Agriculture to help bring the services of all agencies of the Federal Government to rural areas with increased effectiveness.

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman said the new agency, announced by President Johnson in his farm message, will carry out the President's pledge to see that "no service of the Federal Government stops at the city line."

Secretary Freeman appointed Robert G. Lewis to head the new agency. Mr. Lewis, formerly of Madison, Wisconsin, had been deputy administrator of the Department's price support programs for the past four years. Before that he was agricultural coordinator in the Wisconsin State government. Dr. A. T. Mace, director of the Office of Rural Areas Development, was named deputy administrator of the new agency.

The Rural Community Development Service absorbed the staff and the functions of the Office of Rural Areas Development (ORAD).

Rural Community Development Service field offices will be established, and will work closely with the Cooperative Extension Service, and other USDA agencies comprising the Technical Action Panels, the Secretary said.

Secretary Freeman emphasized that USDA will not attempt to duplicate the services of the rest of the Federal government in such fields as education, manpower, health, welfare, youth counseling, employment programs, but will help other agencies extend the benefits of their programs to rural America.

In addition to helping rural people to develop their economy and natural resources, the Secretary said, the new agency "will seek to help them realize the fullest potential of their human capabilities as well."

One of the agency's jobs will be to expand the Department's efforts to help rural people make effective use of the new programs provided by the Economic Opportunity Act.

NORTH DAKOTA FARM FAMILY MARKETS NEW PRODUCT: OUTDOOR RECREATION

Mr. and Mrs. William Goter near Carrington, North Dakota, say, "It will take time, but we have confidence this project will work out. The little while we were open for business last fall proved that."



The Goter's "project" is recreation for pay. They opened a campground last fall, complete with showers, picnic tables, fireplaces, firewood, a laundry, and electrical hook-ups for trailers. Campers pay \$1.50 to \$1.75 a night depending on their electrical needs.

The Goters built an overnight camp ground in a wooded shelterbelt parallel to a highway carrying tourists across the State's mid-section. A nearby 70-acre lake makes it even more attractive to vacationers searching for a night's camping.

The Tri-County Electric Cooperative ran a powerline into the site and Soil Conservation Service technicians helped plan the camping area. To help finance construction costs, the Goters borrowed \$5,730 from the Farmers Home Administration. The local extension agricultural agent gave Mr. Goter information on managing his new enterprise.

The area accommodates 25 to 30 camping units a night. If business booms, Mr. Goter will enlarge. His plans call for renting boats and ponies, adding a lunch counter to his small store, and possibly a gas pump.

SECRETARY FREEMAN DEDICATES JOB CORPS CENTER, VISITS RURAL RENEWAL PROJECT.

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman dedicated the first Job Corps Conservation Center in the south and reviewed the work of the Nation's first pilot rural renewal project while in Arkansas, March 22-23.



On the first day of his visit, Secretary Freeman talked with Corpsmen at the Ouachita Center, 17 miles west of Hot Springs. As part of their skills development under qualified instructors, corpsmen will construct recreation facilities on the Charlton Recreation Area, the Caddo Ranger District, and the River Bluff Float Camp. Corpsmen will reconstruct a dam, develop 1,250 feet of nature trail, and build stone steps at Iron Springs. Extensive erosion control and watershed restoration projects will also be completed.

Timber stand improvement will be undertaken on the Maudlin, Washita and Hogjaw areas. None of the work scheduled is a part of the normal program activity of the Ouachita National Forest.

As part of the President's War on Poverty, about 60 centers will be activated by the end of the summer on National Forests throughout the country.

The next day, Secretary Freeman reviewed rural renewal activities in Little River County, near Texarkana, at the invitation of Marion H. Crank, president of the Little River Rural Development Authority of Foreman.

Through this pilot program, local people in Little River County have carried out activities that have created more than 135 jobs, generated more than \$1.8 million in construction work, provided rural people with jobs skills needed in modern plants, and strengthened the area's farm family income by a total of more than \$600 a day in timber sales alone.

USDA's help in the pilot program is administered by the Farmers Home Administration.

The Secretary visited a series of community-sponsored development projects aimed to improve housing, industrial development, community facilities including water and sewer systems, specialty crops for an expanding area market, family farms, nursing homes, outdoor recreation facilities, and flood control.

APPALACHIA ACT MOUNTS NEW ATTACK ON AREA'S PROBLEMS

The Appalachia Act passed by Congress in March authorizes a broad new development approach for helping State and local governments overcome the complex problems of Appalachia.

The Act authorizes the appropriation of \$840 million for an Appalachian Development Highway System, with the Federal government paying half the cost to build 2,350 miles of highways and 1,000 miles of local roads; \$41 million for grants to help build, equip and operate multi-county demonstration health facilities; \$17 million for ten-year agreements to help farmers finance the cost of conservation practices; \$5 million to help establish private timber development corporations; and, \$36.5 million for a long-range program to rehabilitate strip mines. The Act also calls for modification of existing Federal programs in Vocational Education Facilities and Sewage treatment works for the area.



It establishes a 12-member Appalachian Regional Commission -- the Governors of the 11 States and a Federal co-chairman to coordinate the various programs.

NEW MEXICO VILLAGE PUTS RAD TO WORK

Although the Village of Chama, in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, has a population of about 1,300, local people did not let lack of numbers stop their plans for community improvement.

Today Chama has 30 new homes, a new shopping center, more businesses, and community improvements. The Rio Arriba County RAD committee and USDA Technical Action Panel are credited with helping the town secure a new water and sewage system -- the water system financed with a \$156,000 USDA loan. Natural gas has been piped in to lower fuel costs. A municipal recreation center is being built, streets have been paved, and fire and police protection have been improved.

"UPSWING IN RURAL AMERICA" NOW REVISED

USDA's publication, "Upswing in Rural America," has been revised -- giving a penetrating wrap-up of the changes taking place in rural America along with examples of how rural people, through the rural areas development effort, are using USDA and other Federal programs to revitalize their economy.



For a single copy, write: Editor, RAD Newsletter, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 20250.